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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,075	02/08/2001	Kenneth H. East	5563-00401	7479

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EXAMINER	
SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2154	5

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

P24

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/781,075	EAST ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mohammad A Siddiqi	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 February 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-51* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-51* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *02/08/01* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-51 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coutts et al. (6,311,165) (hereinafter Coutts) in view of Mitchell et al. (6,528,304) (hereinafter Mitchell).

4. As per claims 1 and 39, Coutts discloses a computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium, wherein the computer program comprises a plurality of instructions, wherein the plurality of instructions are configured to (col 3, lines 10-16):

detect a plurality of computers that are connected by a network (col 3, lines 55-61): and

wherein one of the computers is designated as a master administrative server (col 33, lines 5-16 and col 41, lines 25-28), wherein one or more of the computers are designated as remote administrative servers (col 33, lines 5-16 and col 41, lines 25-28), and wherein one or more of the computers are designated as thin clients (col 38, lines 47-56), wherein the master administrative server is configured to manage configuration updates (col 33, lines 5-16 and col 38, lines 47-64) for the remote administrative servers which are configured to manage configuration updates for the thin clients (col 33, lines 5-24).

Coutts is silent about the constructing of a management hierarchy for the plurality of computers.

However, Mitchell discloses construct a management hierarchy for the plurality of computers (col 15, lines 30-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Coutts with Mitchell because it would provide network management application to remotely manage network in a graphical tree-like manner.

5. As per claim 2, Coutts discloses wherein the master administrative server is configured to directly manage a first subset of the thin clients, and wherein the master administrative server is configured to indirectly manage

a second subset of the thin clients through the remote administrative servers (col 33, lines 5-24 and col 41, lines 25-28).

6. As per claim 3, Coutts discloses wherein each remote administrative server is configured to directly manage one or more thin clients from the second subset of thin clients (col 33, lines 5-24 and col 41, lines 25-28).

7. As per claims 4, 45, and 46, Coutts discloses wherein the program is configured to configure the thin clients to access one or more application servers to execute applications (col 33, lines 5-40).

8. As per claim 5, Coutts discloses wherein the program is configured to configure each thin client to access one remote administrative server or the master administrative server for configuration updates (col 33, lines 5-40 and col 38, lines 47-64).

9. As per claim 6, Coutts discloses the program is configured to configure each thin client to access one or more application servers to execute applications (col 33, lines 5-40).

10. As per claim 7, Coutts discloses wherein one or more of the application servers are also administrative servers (col 33, lines 5-40 and col 41, lines 25-28).

11. As per claim 8, Coutts discloses wherein the plurality of instructions are further configured to automatically update each thin client by conveying update information to the thin clients, wherein the master administrative server is configured to convey update information to at least one of the thin clients by forwarding the update information via one or more remote administrative servers (col 27, lines 25-67).

12. As per claim 9, Coutts discloses wherein the master administrative server is configured to convey update information to one or more of the thin clients by forwarding the update information via one or more remote administrative servers in response to the one or more thin clients joining the network (col 33, lines 5-40).

13. As per claim 10, Coutts discloses wherein each administrative server is configured to operate in parallel (col 33, lines 6-15).

14. As per claims 11 and 40, Coutts discloses wherein each administrative server is configured to distribute the update in parallel to the thin clients once the update is received (col 33, lines 6-17).

15. As per claim 12, Coutts does not specifically discloses the plurality of instructions are further configured to display at least part of a hierarchical network diagram of the management hierarchy, wherein the diagram comprises a plurality of icons each representing one administrative server or thin client in the network.

However, Mitchell discloses the plurality of instructions are further configured to display at least part of a hierarchical network diagram of the management hierarchy, wherein the diagram comprises a plurality of icons each representing one administrative server or thin client in the network (col 15, lines 30-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Coutts with Mitchell because it would provide network management application to remotely manage network in a graphical tree-like manner.

16. As per claim 13, Coutts does not specifically discloses the plurality of instructions are further configured to display at least part of a hierarchical

network diagram of the management hierarchy, wherein the diagram comprises a plurality of icons each representing one administrative server, thin client, or cluster of administrative servers and thin clients in the network.

However, Mitchell discloses the plurality of instructions are further configured to display at least part of a hierarchical network diagram of the management hierarchy, wherein the diagram comprises a plurality of icons each representing one administrative server, thin client, or cluster of administrative servers and thin clients in the network (col 15, lines 30-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Coutts with Mitchell because it would provide network management application to remotely manage network in a graphical tree-like manner.

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17. As per claim 14, Coutts discloses the plurality of instructions are further configured to cause at least one administrative server to allow any other administrative server requesting control to take over management of configuration updates (col 33, lines 6-23).

18. As per claims 15 and 31, Coutts discloses wherein the plurality of instructions are further configured to cause at least one administrative

server to prevent another administrative server from taking over management of configuration updates (col 33, lines 6-17, dynamic reconfiguration).

19. As per claim 16 and 32, Coutts discloses the plurality of instructions are further configured to prevent at least one administrative server from relinquish control to another administrative server in response to a request to seize control unless the request to seize control originates from a specified network address (col 33, lines 55-67 and line 24, master/slave prevents).

20. As per claim 17, Coutts discloses receive error messages from the thin clients (col 34, lines 33-44);
propagate the error messages up the management hierarchy (col 40, lines 19-27); and generate an error summary (col 40, lines 19-27).

21. As per claim 18, Coutts discloses receive status messages from the thin clients (col 34, lines 33-44);
propagate the status messages up the management hierarchy (col 35, lines 4-38); and generate a status summary (col 40, lines 19-27).

22. As per claim 19, Coutts discloses status summary includes only serious error messages corresponding to each particular administrative server (col 3, lines 1-4 and col 46, lines 62-67).

23. As per claim 20, Coutts discloses wherein the plurality of instructions are further configured to provide a graphical user interface (col 36, lines 5-10).

24. As per claim 21, Coutts discloses a method for managing a network of computers, the method comprising (col 3, lines 10-16):
Coutts discloses computer is thin client (col 38, lines 47-56).

Coutts does not specifically discloses displaying at least part of a hierarchical network diagram of the network (col 8, lines 1-57), wherein the diagram comprises a plurality of icons each representing one computer in the network (col 15, lines 30-42);

prompting a user to configure a first computer in the network with a default configuration (Upon start-up, col 9, lines 27-38), wherein the first computer is a client (col 15, lines 30-65, device must be thin client);

allowing the user to select one or more additional computers in the network by selecting one or more icons corresponding to the one or more additional computers (col 15, lines 30-67),

wherein the one or more additional computers are clients (col 9, lines 30-65);

comparing (col 15, line 55-67) the one or more additional computers' hardware with the first computer's hardware (col 15, lines 55-67); and

copying the default configuration (col 9, lines 27-30) to the each of the one or more additional computers that meet the first computer's level of hardware (col 15, lines 55-67).

However, Mitchell discloses displaying at least part of a hierarchical network diagram of the network (col 8, lines 1-57), wherein the diagram comprises a plurality of icons each representing one computer in the network (col 15, lines 30-42);

prompting a user to configure a first computer in the network with a default configuration (Upon start-up, col 9, lines 27-38), wherein the first computer is a client (col 15, lines 30-65, device must be thin client);

allowing the user to select one or more additional computers in the network by selecting one or more icons corresponding to the one or more additional computers (col 15, lines 30-67),

wherein the one or more additional computers are clients (col 9, lines 30-65);

comparing (col 15, line 55-67) the one or more additional computers' hardware with the first computer's hardware (col 15, lines 55-67); and

copying the default configuration (col 9, lines 27-30) to the each of the one or more additional computers that meet the first computer's level of hardware (col 15, lines 55-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Coutts with Mitchell because it would provide network management application to remotely manage network in a graphical tree-like manner.

25. As per claim 22, Coutts fails to disclose allowing the user to select the one or more additional computers by shift-clicking icons representing the one or more additional computers.

However, Mitchell discloses comprising allowing the user to select the one or more additional computers by shift-clicking icons representing the one or more additional computers (col 4, lines 28-46).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Coutts with Mitchell because it would provide network management application to remotely manage network in a graphical tree-like manner.

26. As per claim 23, Mitchell discloses two or more of the computers in the network are administrative servers configured to manage updates for at

least one or more of the thin clients in the network (col 33, lines 5-16 and col 38, lines 47-64).

Coutts fails to disclose the method further comprises allowing the user to select the one or more additional thin clients by clicking icons representing one or more administrative servers in the network diagram, wherein clicking a particular administrative server selects all thin clients managed by the particular administrative server.

However, Mitchell discloses the method further comprises allowing the user to select the one or more additional thin clients by clicking icons representing one or more administrative servers in the network diagram, wherein clicking a particular administrative server selects all clients managed by the particular administrative server (col 5, lines 38-67 and col 6, lines 1-21 and col 2, lines 10-26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Coutts with Mitchell because it would provide network management application to remotely manage network in a graphical tree-like manner.

27. As per claim 24, Coutts fails to disclose further comprising allowing the user to select the one or more additional thin clients by dragging an icon

representing the first thin client over one or more icons representing the one or more additional thin clients.

However, Mitchell discloses further comprising allowing the user to select the one or more additional thin clients by dragging an icon representing the first thin client over one or more icons representing the one or more additional thin clients (col 4, lines 28-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Coutts with Mitchell because it would provide network management application to remotely manage network in a graphical tree-like manner.

28. As per claim 25, Coutts fails to disclose further comprising allowing the user to configure one or more computers as administrative servers, wherein the administrative servers are configured to manage updates for one or more of the thin clients in the network.

However, Mitchell discloses further comprising allowing the user to configure one or more computers as administrative servers, wherein the administrative servers are configured to manage updates for one or more of the thin clients in the network (col 12, lines 29-61).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Coutts with Mitchell because it

would provide network management application to remotely manage network in a graphical tree-like manner.

29. As per claim 26, Coutts discloses, wherein at least administrative server is a master administrative server configured to manage updates for one or more other administrative servers (col 33, lines 5-24).

30. As per claim 27, Coutts fails to disclose comprising allowing the user to create one or more clusters by selecting icons representing thin clients that are cluster members.

However, Mitchell discloses allowing user to create one or more clusters by selecting icons representing thin clients that are cluster members (col 9, 27-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Coutts with Mitchell because it would provide network management application to remotely manage network in a graphical tree-like manner.

31. As per claim 28, Coutts fails to disclose allowing the user to create one or more clusters by selecting icons representing administrative servers that manage thin clients that are cluster members.

However, Mitchell discloses allowing the user to create one or more clusters by selecting icons representing administrative servers that manage thin clients that are cluster members (col 5, lines 38-67 and col 6, lines 1-21 and col 2, lines 10-26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Coutts with Mitchell because it would provide network management application to remotely manage network in a graphical tree-like manner.

32. As per claim 29 Coutts discloses downloading update information to each administrative server, and configuring each administrative server to automatically download the update information to all thin clients managed by the administrative server (col 3, lines 55-65).

33. As per claim 30, Coutts discloses wherein each particular administrative server is configured to download the update information to the thin clients controlled by the particular administrative server in parallel with other administrative servers (col 3, lines 55-65 and col 33 lines 6-33).

34. As per claim 33, Coutts discloses configuring a particular administrative server to relinquish control to any other administrative server that requests control (col 33, lines 55-67, and line 24).

35. As per claim 34, Coutts discloses generating an error summary for each particular administrative server, wherein each error summary includes at least the most severe fault message from each thin client and administrative server managed by the particular administrative server (col 3, lines 1-4, col 46, lines 62-67, and col 34, lines 33-44).

36. As per claims 35 and 37, Coutts discloses wherein the level of hardware includes one or more of the following attributes: amount of memory, graphics resolution, and color depth (col 29, lines 15-67).

37. As per claim 36, claim 36 is similar in scope to claims 1, 2, and 3 above and is rejected for under the same rationale.

38. As per claim 38, Coutts discloses further comprising automatically detecting new thin clients that are connected to the network and automatically providing the new thin clients with configuration information

specifying the remote administrative servers' network address (col 42, line 5)

39. As per claim 41, Coutts discloses a subset of the remote administrative servers are configured to be master/remote administrative servers and to receive updates from the top-level master administrative server and forward the updates to one or more other remote administrative servers (col 33, lines 6-67).

40. As per claim 42, Clouts discloses the remote administrative servers are configured in a control hierarchy, wherein the top-level master administrative server is the top or root of the control hierarchy (fig 7,col 33, lines 6-67).

41. As per claim 43, clouts discloses one or more of the remote administrative servers are connect to the wherein the remote administrative servers are configured to forward the update information to the one or more thin clients substantially in parallel (fig 7,col 33, lines 6-67).

42. As per claim 44, clouts discloses wherein each remote administrative server is connected to the top-level master administrative server via a first

type of network connection, wherein each thin client is connected to one of the remote administrative servers or the master administrative server via a second type of network connection (fig 7,col 33, lines 6-67).

43. As per claim 47, Coutts discloses Ethernet, ISDN (integrated services digital network), DSL (digital subscriber line), or telephone dial-up (col 38, lines 45-64).

44. As per claim 48, Coutts discloses the first type of network connection is an Ethernet local area network (LAN) connection (col 8, lines 30-65)

45. As per claim 49, Coutts discloses wherein the first type of network connection is a dial-up connection (col 38, lines 45-65).

46. As per claim 50, Coutts discloses the second type of network connection is an Ethernet local area network (LAN) connection (col 8, lines 30-65).

47. As per claim 51, Coutts discloses the second type of network connection is a dial-up connection (col 38, lines 45-65).

Conclusion

48. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent 6,553,366 to Miller et al.

U.S. Patent 6,134,594 to Helland et al.

U.S. Patent 6,591272 to Williams et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A Siddiqi whose telephone number is (703) 305-0353. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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